

## Message Text

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72

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 H-02 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 /090 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)  
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)  
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK  
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY  
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN  
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 044609

R 082048Z APR 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 8, 1975:

QUOTE:Q.WHO REQUESTED THE MEETING WITH DINITZ THIS AFTER-  
NOON?

A. THIS IS ONE OF THEIR, SHALL WE SAY, REGULAR MEETINGS  
THAT THEY HAVE TOGETHER. IT WAS MUTUALLY AGREED, AS FAR  
AS I KNOW, THE LAST TIME THEY MET THAT THEY WOULD MEET AGAIN  
AND THEY WILL BE MEETING HERE.

Q. I HAVE A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, ALSO:

WHAT IS THE POSSIBILITY OF ISRAEL AND EGYPT BEGINNING PROXI-  
MITY TALKS IN WASHINGTON WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE?

A. DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THEM ONE BY ONE, OR -- LET ME

ANSWER THAT, AND IT MAY TAKE CARE OF SOME OF YOUR OTHER  
QUESTIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE TO ASK.

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THERE HAS BEEN A NUMOER OF STORIES HERE IN THE LAST WEEK OR  
TEN DAYS ABOUT, AS YOU SAY, "PROXIMITY TALKS" HERE IN  
WASHINGTON. THERE IS NO BASIS FOR THIS AT ALL.

THERE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER MAY  
BE GOING OUT TO THE MIDDLE EAST AGAIN. THERE ISNO BASIS  
FOR THIS.

THERE WAS ALSO -- AND I THINK THIS WAS IN NEWSWEEK -- A STATEMENT THAT MAX FISHER WAS SENT OUT AS SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY. THERE IS NOTHING TO THIS.

THERE WAS ALSO, I THINK IN THE SAME ARTICLE, SOME INDICATION THAT DR. KISSINGER WANTED TO HAVE SOME KIND OF "STRONG MAN" COME TO WASHINGTON WITH ALLON -- THERE IS NO QUESTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON COMING HERE AT THIS TIME, ANYWAY, THAT I KNOW OF -- BUT I THINK THE ARTICLE SAID BECAUSE THE SECRETARY BELIEVED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER, I THINK IT WAS, "TALKS BEGIN WASHINGTON BUT TAKES A BACK SEAT IN JERUSALEM." THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO THIS EITHER.

AND I MIGHT JUST ADD, AS A POSTSCRIPT -- THERE WAS A "PERISCOPE" ITEM IN NEWSWEEK ABOUT THE VICEPRESIDENT AND DR. KISSINGER. THAT IS TOTALLY WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION AT ALL. IN POINT OF FACT, DR. KISSINGER WAS VERY MUCH INVOLVED, AND VERY MUCH FAVORED -- HE WAS VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN SETTING UP AND ARRANGING THE MEETING BETWEEN THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT SADAT AND THE QUESTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT STOPPING OFF IN JERUSALEM FOLLOWING THE FUNERAL OF KING FAISAL NEVER EVEN AROSE.

Q. TAKE AWAY "SPECIAL" BEFORE "ENVOY" WAS MAX FISHER CARRYING ANY MESSAGES, SPECIAL OR OTHERWISE?

A. NO.

Q. OR SEMI-SPECIAL?

A. NO. HE WENT OUT THERE AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. HE WAS NOT GOING OUT AS A SPECIAL ENVOY OF ANYBODY -- THE PRESIDENT.  
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DENT, OR DR. KISSINGER, OR ANYBODY ELSE -- AND HE DIDN'T CARRY ANY PROPOSALS OR ANY MESSAGES.

Q. SO WHEN ARE THE LANCES GOING TO BE DELIVERED -- THE LANCE MISSILES?

A. I THINK THE PENTAGON ADDRESSED THAT QUESTION THE OTHER DAY.

Q. IN THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE, IT WAS SAID THAT THE SECRETARY WAS CONSIDERING RETALIATING AGAINST THE ISRAELIS BY PUBLISHING A STATE DEPARTMENT WHITE PAPER ON THE MIDDLE EAST THAT WOULD CLEARLY INDICATE THE BLAME FOR THE COLLAPSE OF THE TALKS LAY WITH ISRAEL.

A. THERE'S NOTHING TO THAT. THERE'S NO QUESTION OF ANY RETALIATION. THERE'S NO WHITE PAPER BEING PLANNED, OR ANY -- THERE IS, AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE THIS REASSESSMENT OF OUR POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT IS CURRENTLY GOING ON.

AND THAT'S IT.

Q. STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY WAS PROCLAIMED DEAD WHEN THE SECRETARY LEFT THE MIDDLE EAST. DOES IT REMAIN DEAD?

A. WELL, I THINK THAT THE SECRETARY SAID ON MARCH 26TH IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, AND HE HAS SAID SINCE, THAT WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE PARTIES. THE PARTIES WANT US TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS, BUT THUS FAR WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY INDICATION OF EXACTLY HOW OUR EFFORTS MIGHT BEST BE CONTINUED.

NOW WE ARE OPEN TO ALL OPTIONS.

IF WE GET THE GENEVA OPTION, THERE MAY BE STEP-BY-STEP OR SOME OTHER OPTION. BUT THERE IS NOTHING ACTIVELY GOING ON AT THIS TIME.

WE ARE REASSESSING THE WHOLE PICTURE.

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Q. IS THERE ANY DATE FOR GENEVA? WORKING DATE?

A. NO.

Q. HAS THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL PRESENTED ANY NEW IDEAS TO THE UNITED STATES REGARDING POSSIBLE REVIVAL OF THE U.S. INITIATIVE?

A. NO. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE079492  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** GFSHERMAN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750122-0894  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, US  
**To:** AMMAN MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006